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Castro's Big Achievement

By Henry Taylor



The yellow glow of morphine money
Castro demanded for his prisoner ransom deal dealt our fine narcotics bureau
heres a drunken reverse.

Sen. Estes Kefauver's crime committee
long ago identified Cuba as an international
hub in the fiendish traffic. Much of this
free delivery to Castro—highest quality—
will come right smack back to the dope
peddlers in the United States.

Shortly before I left Switzerland our
American embassy, in co-operation with the

superb Swiss police, impounded more than \$2 million in
morphine in transit, carried in a single suitcase. This is
how morphine money multiplies in the form Castro will
cut it.

The whole ransom affair typifies Washington's news
manipulation, culminating even in the President's Miami
eulogy to the survivors themselves on Dec. 29. Speaking
there, not only words were used as "weaponry." Hearts
were used as well.

President Kennedy repeatedly stated, "This is being done
by a private committee," while our Government was as
much in it as in the Bay of Pigs affair itself. This is now
a secret everybody knows.

But inside his office the determined Attorney General
had—from the beginning—what he called the "wish list"
from Castro. The Cuban drew up a crazy compilation. In
totalling it to \$53 million he used mostly obsolete drug-
house catalogues. He specified some drugs unobtainable
here, many scientifically obsolete, and even dreamed up
others that never existed.

His morphine feature, however, was the final clincher
Castro demanded in his American blackmail. The Attorney
General's opening explanation in soliciting each contribu-
tion was: "My brother made a mistake."

Why didn't our public servants simply perform on the
straight-forward basis required by their official position?
Congress specifically prohibited the use of taxpayers' money
for ransom during the tractors-for-prisoners uproar. These
officials could not do what they wanted to do and still come
out in the open.

To date the Administration has even refused a list of
items, quantities and costs, making all assessment by our
public impossible. Congress should at least expose the tax
gimmicks and inside bait authorized overnight after the
Attorney General's reported "fella, get busy" word to Treas-
ury Secretary Douglas Dillon, by a Government which is
about to challenge every citizen's lunch nickel and Christ-
mas cigar.

Moreover, Impeccable Cuban underground sources as close
to Castro as his beard (for Castro's inner circle has been
well penetrated) insist Castro's real win was not the \$53

million ransom at all. His eye was entirely on a reaffirma-
tion of a non-invasion pledge.

Knowing negotiator James B. Donovan spoke for Presi-
dent Kennedy and his brother, Castro required and received
this pledge as the basic requirement before allowing the
invasion prisoners to leave. Castro asked Mr. Donovan,
"What if President Kennedy repudiates you?" Mr. Donovan
replied, "He won't."

In short, Castro has achieved his ambition as the com-
munist leader of Latin America under a United States
guarantee not to molest, or permit any neighbor to molest,
Red Cuba's sovereignty.

This reaffirmed President Kennedy's guarantee thru
United Nations Acting Secretary-General U Thant if the
missiles were removed, still never admitted by Washington
but extracted from the secret UN minutes of the initial
U Thant-Castro meeting in Havana which U Thant's office
confirmed to me as accurate.

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